

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 041150Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0645

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, AO

SUBJECT: NYERERE STILL FAVORS ANGOLAN COALITION

1. IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH TEAM OF 18 TOURING ZAMBIAN JOURNALISTS, PRESIDENT NYERERE SAID FEBRUARY 1 THAT TANZANIA WAS STILL NOT OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN ANGOLA, BUT THAT THIS COULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL ANGOLANS STOPPED FIGHTING EACH OTHER AND UNITED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. SPEAKING OFF THE CUFF, NYERERE NOTED THAT TANGOV HAD ENDORSED CONCEPT OF COALITION GOVERNMENT DESPITE ITS LONG SUPPORT OF MPLA, HAD EVEN GIVEN UNITA WEAPONS AND MILITARY TRAINING, AND HAD DELAYED RECOGNIZING MPLA AS GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA FOR SOME TIME AFTER

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ANGOLA BECAME INDEPENDENT ON NOVEMBER 11. TODAY, HE SAID, "WE

RECOGNIZE THE MPLA AND WE WILL STILL GO ON SAYING TO OUR FRIENDS IN MPLA, 'UNITE WITH EVERYBODY IN YOUR COUNTRY WHO IS WILLING TO FIGHT SOUTH AFRICA. EVEN SAVIMBI.'"

2. NYERERE ACCUSED SAVIMBI OF BEING A TRAITOR WHO HAD MADE A "DAMN MISTAKE BY WORKING WITH APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA." HE SHOULD RETURN AND ADMIT HIS MISTAKE, AND "AFTER TELLING US THAT FRANKLY, AND PROMISING NOT TO REPEAT THIS, THEN WE CAN DECIDE TO WORK WITH HIM. BUT SAVIMBI CANNOT TURN TO US AND SAY WE ARE THE CROOKS BECAUSE WE HELPED HIM*" NYERERE DID NOT MENTION HOLDEN ROBERTO OR FNLA.

3. NYERERE WAS ADDRESSING ZAMBIAN JOURNALISTS INVITED TO TANZANIA TO ASSURE THEMSELVES THAT TANZANIAN-ZAMBIAN FRIENDSHIP, AND ESPECIALLY TANZANIAN EXPEDITING OF ZAMBIAN CARGO, WAS NOT BEING AFFECTED BY POLITICAL DIFFERENCES OVER ANGOLA. GROUP WAS BROUGHT ESPECIALLY TO DODOMA TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT AT END OF THEIR TOUR.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS MOST POSITIVE STATEMENT ON ANGOLA WE HAVE SEEN FROM NYERERE IN SOME TIME, AND CONTRASTS WITH THE CIRULENT PRO-MPLA PROPAGANDA IN THE LOCAL PRESS. ADMITTEDLY, NYERERE WAS TRYING TO MINIMIZE TANZANIAN-ZAMBIAN DIFFERENCES IN ADDRESSING THIS PARTICULAR GROUP, AND HIS REMARKS DID NOT SOUND AS IF THEY HAD BEEN PREPARED IN ADVANCE. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT HIM TO BE LAUNCHING NEW INITIATIVES WHILE SPEAKING UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. NEVERTHELESS, HIS STATEMENTS SERVE AS REMINDERS THAT -- AS IN MANY OTHER CONTEXTS -- NYERERE PREFERS CONCILIATORY AND PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS, AND IS WILLING TO EXPLORE VARIOUS WAYS OF ACHIEVING THEM.

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